A short Comment upon the Grounds and Reasons of *Poyers* taking up Armes in these second Insurrections, which Reasons are most falsly and abusively represented to the great advantage of the said *Poyer*, and to the dishonour and prejudice of the well-affected Gentry of the County of *Pembrooke*, who have alwaies stood firme, and right to the Parliament and Army.

Published to no other end but to undeceive the Reader, and to declare the truth in the vindication of the well-affected Gentry herein mentioned. *And a word in his Character.*

IT is very well knowne to those that have been long since acquainted with the life and principles of the said *Poyer*, that it was not his affection to the Parliament, their Declarations, Religion, Liberty of the Subject, which the Writer pretends induced *Poyer* to take up Armes, but being a notorious lewd liver, a hater of all Religion and godly persons, did beat most cruelly two godly Ministers, Master *Cradooke*, and Mr. *Roberts*, a common Drunkard, a great Swearer and quarreller, borne to nothing, sprung up from a Turn-spit to a Glover, from thence with a rabble of Fellowes loose as himselfe, tooke the advantage of the unsetledness of the time, wrested the possession of the Castle of *Pembrooke* from Captaine *Cuney* the owner thereof, and nominated *Poyer* their Captaine, this being about a yeare before any enemy came into the County of *Pembrooke*, seized upon the Armes in the Towne, and fortified himselfe in the said Castle, free-boted into the Country, Plundering Mr. *Roger Lort*, and others well-affected to the Parliament, shortly after he and his companions seized upon two Ships in *Milford Haven* of great value, one of three hundred

Tun, the other about two hundred Tun laden with Tobacco, Salt, and other commodities, the said Shipping and their Lading being adjudged to be of no lesse value then six thousand pounds, which he pursed up to his owne use, and being no lawfull Prizes, but taken from well-affected men to the Parliament, and never yet by him accounted for; he tooke away the Goods of severall well-affected people that fled from the Rebels in *Ireland* for refuge here, divers of them having petitioned here for releefe, and having by these meanes and many other Out-rages by him committed gotten monies into his hands, he raised a Company of Foot, and a Troop of Horse, which he tooke away by violence from the Inhabitants of the County without Commission, and having thus acted the part of an Outlaw, in this desperate guilty condition with this force he had raised, he was resolved to stand on his Guard in opposition to all force that appeared against him, without regard or affection to the King or Parliament, or to any interest but his owne, and to protect himselfe against all force with his fellow Free-boters, and their ill gotten goods in the strong Castle of *Pembrooke*; and it fortuned that the Kings Forces appeared first against him, and comming to a Parley with them he contracted, That he would keep the Towne and Castle of *Pembrooke* for the King against all such as should claime it in the name of the Parliament; he caused the Towne-men to subscribe with himselfe an instrument to the effect aforesaid, and signed it with the Towne Seale, which was afterwards printed and published at *Oxford*, after this he was received into *Laughornes* favour, but had no Commission from him untill in 1646. all Garrisons in those parts being then reduced to the obedience of the Parliament, and in *August* 1647. he gave the first Rice to the late Insurrections, by opposing the Generalls Letters and Orders, and so proceeded untill he was proclaimed Traytor by Ordinance of Parliament, and taken Prisoner at *Pembrook*. This is impartially the true History and Character of *Payer*.

The

The Grounds and Reasons of Colonell *Payers* taking Armes in this second difference, &c.

HE was called forth by *severall Declarations of Parliament to the defence of his owne and Kingdomes just rights and Liberties: To these ends he tooke up Armes, and so continued for the space of six yeares, to his great charge and trouble: his Enemies by their malice and false information (after they had long endeavoured) brought him in dislike with the Parliament and Army; and by their procurement his Commands were taken from him, before the least proof made, that he had in any way endeavoured to betray the Trust for which he first ingaged.*

Those whom he calles Enemies are the onely men proved firme to the Parliament, and were serviceable to Lievtenant Generall *Cromwell* in the last Insurrections, and at the siege of *Pembroke*, he was never put out of Command by the Parliament, but still had a party in the House kept him in command, untill he revolted and opposed the Lord Generals Forces.

Notwithstanding the severall Plots, which his Enemies laid, to murder him in the Church at Sermon time, upon the Sabbath day, and at other times, As by their Letters and sufficient Testimony may appeare.

What was attemped was by warrant from the Lord Generall.

For safety of his life, he was forced to betake himselfe to the Castle of Pembroke, *wherein the same day he was besieged by his Enemies, they having no Commission, either from the Parliament or Generall, to warrant them in that Action.*

Col. *Fleming* had the Lord Generalls Commission

The next night following, he speedily by a Messenger, made his Addresse to the Parliament and Generall, with Relation of the former Passages, desiring speedy Relief. His Enemies having thus blockt him up, finde a fit time by helpe of powerfull friends, and their false Information, that his just Requests were set by, and a Commission granted to Colonell Fleming, *to take the Castle and his Commands from him: Upon the first Summons sent by Col.* Fleming, *he profered to surrender the Castle, and all there*

unto belonging, desiring his Disbursements, Arreares, and Indempnity, to discharge his Ingagements, wherein he stood indebted, for the service of the Parliament, with Assurance of Indempnity, for himselfe and Souldiers, for without it he was assured, there was no abiding for him in that Countrey, by reason of the great power, and Commands his Enemies were intrusted with in that, and other associate Counties, and their inveterate malice, which they carried against him & his friends, for reducing them, and severall Garrisons by them erected in that County of Pembroke, *to the obedience of the Parliament. Col.* Fleming *perswaded by his Enemies, refused to treat upon the desires aforesaid,* proclames *him* Rebel, *and streightly besiges the Castle for the space of seven weeks, during which time, or before, he never received any Person of the contrary party, into the said Castle, or declared against the Parliament or Army.*

Those he called Enemies were never opposite to him, but in endeavouring to preserve the Parliaments Interest.

He was not proclamed Traytor untill he had severall times refused to deliver the Towne and Castle of *Pembrooke*, according to the Lord Generalls Letters and orders. The Committee did offer him above 200. li. if he would render, but he refused.

After Fleming *had proclamed him* Rebell *two Gentlemen, the one a Parliament man, the other belonging to the Army, spake with* Poyer *in the Castle, concerning the surrender of the same,* Poyer *proffers if* 200 *pounds were given him by the Committees in part of his Disbursments, to satisfie the Souldiers, (then with him in the Castle) with assurance, that he might safely goe to the Head-quarters, there to make knowne his Condition, he would when demanded, deliver the Castle, and all that was therein.*

Mr. *Eliot* could not judge *Poyer* deserved indempnity being proclamed Traytor by Ordinanance of Parliament, the word quarter is false.

This profier not accepted, by the Committee, but much slighted, shortly after it happened, that a souldier belonging to the Castle, found Letters that were directed to the Committee from their Agitator Elliot *then in* London: *These Letters were brought to* Poyer, *amongst other things, mentioned in these Letters, that in case* Poyer *would deliver the Castle, they should be carefull that* Poyer *should not have Quarter or Indempnity granted him,* Poyer *hereby finding how his life is sought after by his Treacherous Enemies, was of meere necessity forced to stand upon his defence.*

All

All theſe particulars he is able to make good.

Upon a Salley forth of the Caſtle, takes ſeverall of Colle. Flemings *Officers and Souldiers, with the Surgeon & ſome Sailors, Belonging to the Ship* Providence, *which beſieged the Caſtle by Sea: all the ſame Priſoners he releaſt, the ſame day, giving them monies, and paſſes for* England, *and ſent the Surgeon and Sailors aboard, and ſuffered Captain* Jordane *Commander of the ſaid Ship, to draw her off, with her Ordnance, Ammunition, and Furniture, which at that time lay all in his hand to a forc'd her to have yeelded, ſunk, or fired, as the Company then aboard can teſtifie.*

The Souldiers and Officers went off upon Articles, with Col. *Buttler* from the Church of *Pulcrohon* when *Poyer* was in his Caſtle 4 miles off.

The Sayler s neither Captaine *Jordon* nor his Ship were ever under *Poyers* power.

He hoping thereby that the Parliament in time might be informed of his former faithfull ſervices, his preſent ſufferings, and the malice of his enemies.

But the active Solicitations, and falſe Informations, now againe ſet on foot by his Enemies. with aſſiſtance of their potent friends, prevaile. that a powerfull party was Ordered to force him to deliver the ſaid Caſile, before he was called to give an account of the former Paſſages, or the reaſons that had induced him thereto.

Here he murners againſt the Lievt. Gen. and his Forces, hee would never give an accompt though he was ſerved with a warrant from the Committee of accompts, but run out of this towne upon ſervice.

Its conceived, that too much credit was given to his bloudy enemies, whoſe endeavours were more to drive on their owne Deſignes, then to benefit the Publique.

Its conceived that to much credit was given to ſuch a bloudhound as *Poyer* and to his friends, or he had not continued ſo long in command to the Prejudice of the Parliament, and the well affected in thoſe parts whom he hath undon by plundering them.

His Enemies diſperſe abroad ſeverall lying Pamphlets, to ſtrengthen themſelves in the opinion of the people, to defame and make him as odions to the Parliament and Army, as poſſible they could deviſe.

Pembroke *yeelded upon Articles, and himſelfe and ſome others, rendred unto the mercy of the Parliament. the* 11. July, 1648. *ſince when he hath continued a cloſe Priſoner, having nothing left to maintain himſelfe, his wife, & foure poore Children, but the charity of his fellow Priſoners.*

It is to be wondered with what impudence it can be urged as a greevance the continuing of him priſoner, when in juſtice he ſhould have beene adjudged fint according to the height of his crime, for he rebelled before any part of this Common-wealth ſtirred, That he had the eldeſt of thoſe Children before he was married, and its commonly ſpoken in *Pembrock* he is not married.

In

In the meane time his Enemies cry out for Justice, and themselves that were the causers of all these troubles, goe Scot-free, have procured themselves to be made Committee men, Justices of the Peace, and Sequestrators, and have not paid one farthing for their Compositions, and they have kept backe Sequestrations from themselves, and from other Grand Delinquents whereby they have hindred the State of one hnndred thousand pounds.

Such persons that in the beginning of difference between King and Parliament, which tooke part with the Party in the County of Pembroke, *had their houses burnt, their Cattell and Goods plundred, and their persons imprisoned by the Kings party, they have long expected some satisfaction from the Parliament forth of Malignants Estates in that Countrey, which were the chiefe Actors of their Ruines and Troubles, are now by the conveyance and malice of their Enemies Sequestred and totally ruined and generally all the Malignant party in the Country, which were Commissioners of Array Collectors, Treasurers, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and chiefe Actors against the Parliament, by sinister meanes, have gained themselves, and their party, to be Commissioners: Committees, Sequestrators, Justices of Peace, Vice-Admirall, to the great oppression and utter undoing of all those, which hath faithfully served the Parliament. All which he is able to make appeare, if a reasonable time be granted him.*

That the Gentlemen he meanes have been and still continues faithfull servants to the State & it can never be made appeare that they have injured the State the value of a farthing, but have suffered in their own estate, for their good affection to the Parliament atleast 12000 pounds by *Poyer* and the Kings party.

Those Gen. which had their Houses burned and goods plundered by the Kings party, are Mr. *Lort* Mr. *White* and Mr. *Eliot*, those whom *Poyer* calles his Enemies, but never any of *Poyers* party suffered any thing considerable by the Kings party, and for *Poyer* himself he owned nothing but what he took by violence from others.

Those Gentlemen have acted most faithfully according to their trust in all the said places for the Parliament, but as for the Commission of Array, it is most false for they never saw any such commission, neither was there ever any Commission of Array sate upon or executed in the County of *Pembrocke* and indeed on of *Poyers* prime friends is sequestred for sitting in the Junto at *Oxford*, for suing out his pardon there under Seale, and continuing in the Kings Quarters, &c. this being proved by the Oathes of severall witnesses against Sir *Hugh Owen* Baronet.

Services

Services done the PARLIAMENT by Colonell *Poyer.*

1. *THat Colonell* Poyer *was one of the first that declared in Armes for the Parliament in South-wales.*

2. *That he tooke three Irish Merchants that were going beyond the seas, imployed by the Irish Rebells to bring over Armes and Ammunitions.*

3. *That he tooke Colonell* Christopher Beling, *Captaine* Thomas Darsey, *Capt.* Edw. Darsey, *Capt.* Kelegrew, *and* Mologa Frier, *all Irish Papists that came from France, and bound for Ireland, to assist the Irish Rebells.*

4. *That he tooke a Ship of three hundred tuns, twenty five Guns, Commissioned by the Marquesse of Ormond, for a Man of Warre against the Parliament.*

5. *That he tooke a Ship of sixty tuns, foure Guns, Commissioned by* Sir John Penington *for a Man of Warre, and bound for Ireland to bring Souldiers for England against the Parliament.*

6. *That he fortified the Towne and Castle of Pembrooke, with Lunsey-house, and Cary-Castle, and furnished the Garrisons with Ordnance, Armes, Men, Victual, and Ammunitions for the Parliament against the Earle of* Carbury, *Col.* Roger Lort, Sampson Lort, John Lort, John Elliot, Henry White, Herbert Perot, Thomas Bowen, *Gentlemen, and others.*

7. *That he raised one Troop of Horse, two Troops of Dragoons, and three Foot Companies, all armed in the service of the Parliament.*

8. *That he furnished the Protestants in Dublin and Toughall in Ireland, with great quantities of Corne and Victuals in their great extremity, forc'd on them by the Irish Rebells.*

1. His Character in the beginning shews like a Free-booter, he took up Armes for himself and none other. 2. That he never was out of the town of Pembrooke to take any. 3. The taking of such a Ship of three hundred tuns in manner expreſt is most false, he tooke such a Ship laden with Tobacco in *Milford* as aforesaid, and is accomptable to divers well-affected Merchants in London for it. 4. He never tooke any Ship but in *Milford-Haven*, and the last he tooke from under the power of the Parliaments Ships then in the Harbor. 5. That he was never able to fortifie towne, or Castle to the value of four pence of his owne goods, but what he raised from the Country. 6. That amongst all his untruths this is the most false and scandalous, for not one of those Gentlemen ever appeared against any Garrison of his. 7. He never raised a quarter part of the Forces pretended, but observe in the beginning how he raised them. 8. That he most basely lost the Castle of Langhorne to the Kings Forces, and about one thousand pounds worth of provisions, and never struck stroke for it, and in like manner the Castle of Carew on *Gerrads* last being there; that he never was able to give Corne of his owne, but he hath imbeziled and sold away the Parliaments provisions severall times.

9. *That*

[illegible] were in [illegible] Nanby Bar[illegible], and his Forces [illegible] drawn off long before from Pembrookshire. 10. That he assisted [illegible] better at the Fight at St. Faggons when they were routed, for at the first taking in of Carmarthen he sheltered himselfe under an old wall during the Skirmish. 11. That he was in Pembrook when the Fight was at Colby-Moore, he never was in person at taking in but Laughorne, and Carew, both which he lost againe most basely. 12. He would faine put a Colonell-ship upon Master *Lort*, who never yet had Commission, or raised Man or Horse but for the Parliament. A great untruth of the Hue and Cry.

[illegible] *against Generall* Gerrard, [illegible] *him and his Forces from joyning with the King at the* [illegible] *of Naseby.*

10. *That he assisted Major Generall* Laughorne, *and Colonell* Powell *in routing of Col.* Price *and his Party before the Towne of Carmarthen.*

11. *That he assisted Major Generall* Laughorne *in routing of* Egerton, Broad Bushell, *and others in Colby-Moore, and taking of Stuckepoll, the House of Colonell* Roger Lort, *Treflyon-House, Harreston-House, a strong Fort at the Pill; the Towne and Castle of Carmarthen, the Towne and Castle of Harford, the Towne and Castle of Tenby, the Towne and Castle of Cardigan, the Castles of Laughorne, Cary, Munnerby, Rosch, and Embling, all Garrisons fortified against the Parliament.*

12. *What Jealousies, mispresentations, and suspicions have been cast upon him by Colonell* Lort *and his party, for these foure yeares past is not unknowne, procuring themselves to be made Committee-men, and other Officers, notwithstanding their malignancy, how they pursued him with Hue and Cry when he was going to the Generalls Head-quarters.*

FINIS.